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Farm Costs and Returns Survey:

Weighing The Facts

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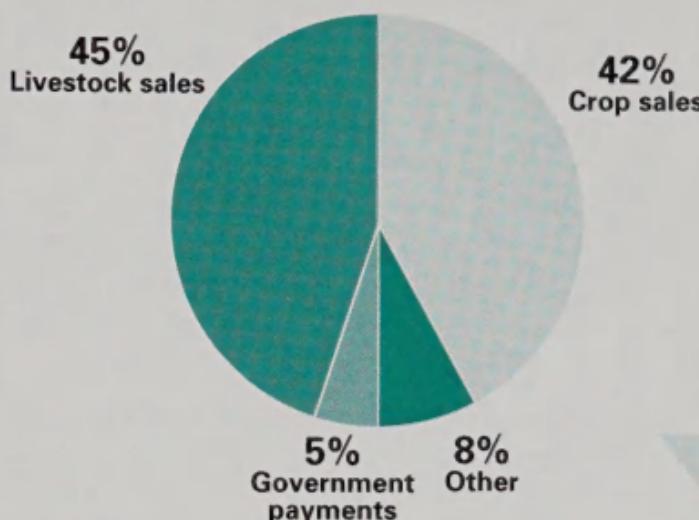
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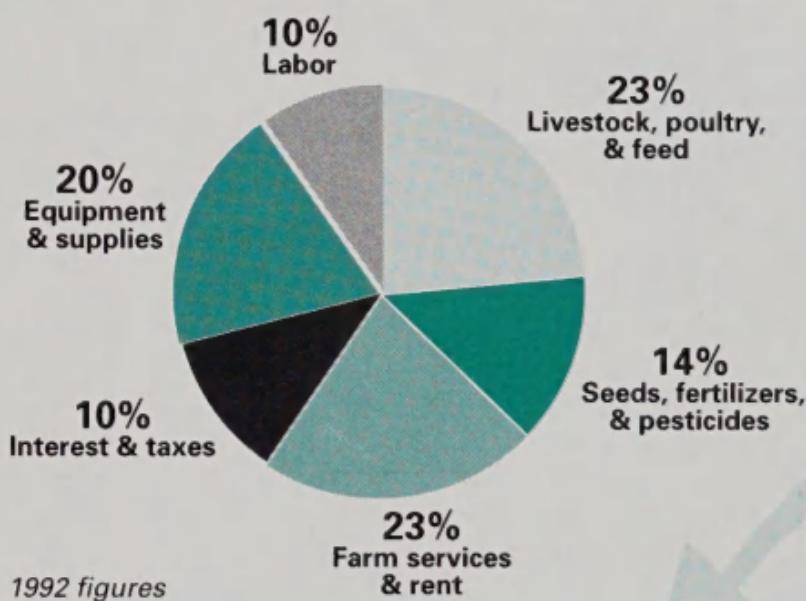


5

The Farm Costs and Returns Survey measures sources of farm income:



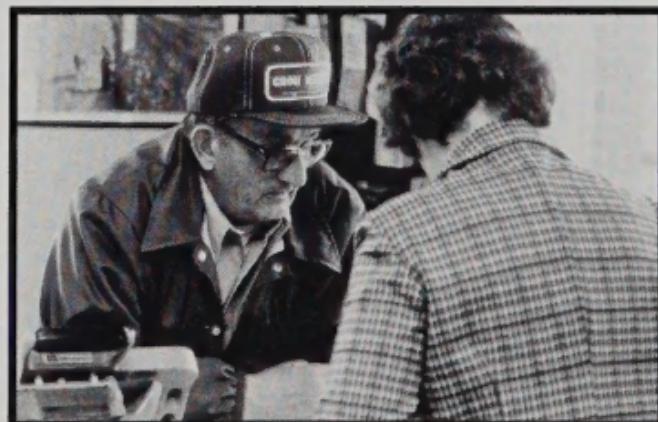
... and farm expenses:



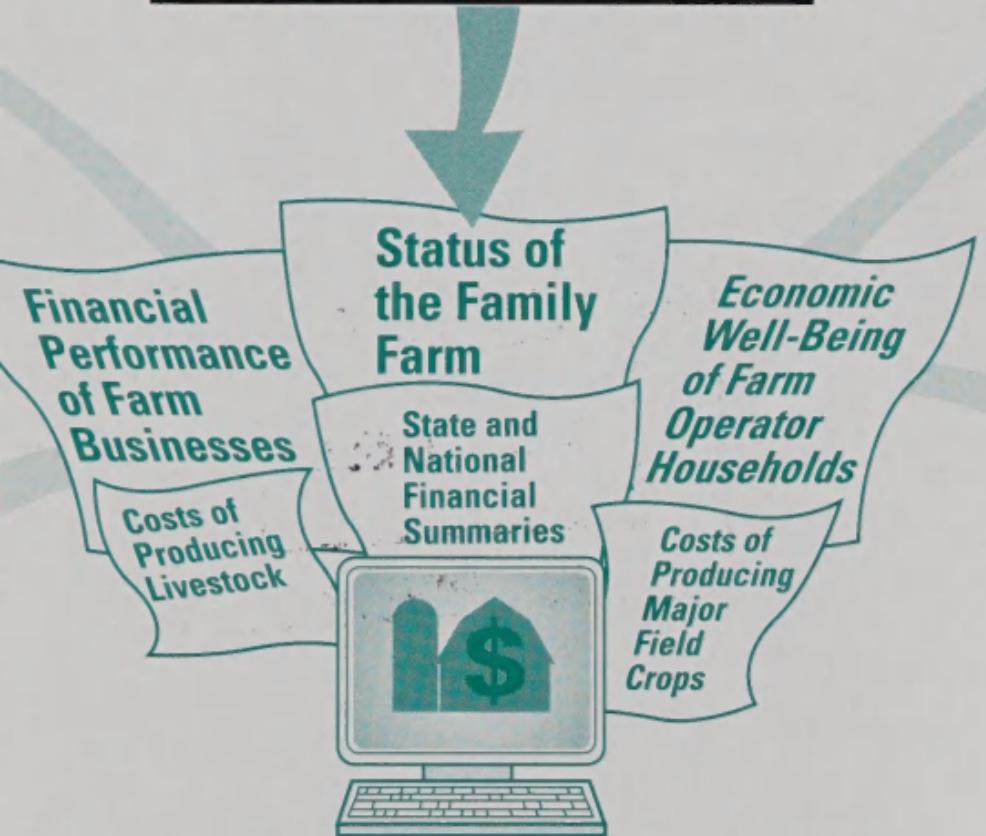
1992 figures

6

The survey information has a major impact when a farm operator visits a local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office, because **policymakers** rely on it heavily when developing and adjusting **farm programs**.



1 You are one of only 12,000 farm operators nationwide who will be interviewed for the Farm Costs and Returns Survey.

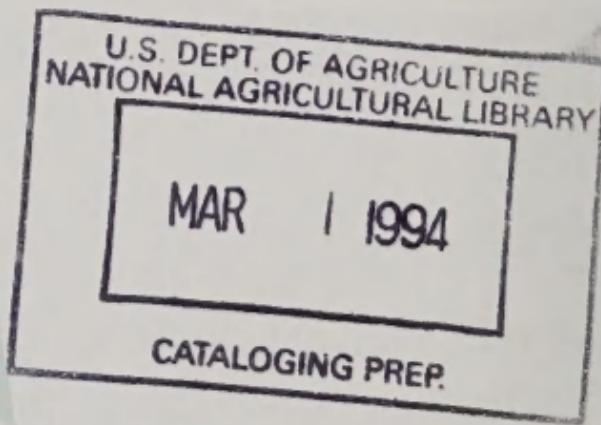


2 Survey data are processed, analyzed, and released to the public in several **reports** that provide the foundation for national news stories on U.S. agriculture, and therefore have great **influence** on Americans' view of farming.

The Farm Costs and Returns Survey is important because it reveals the bottom line on agriculture: whether farmers and ranchers are earning a **profit** or sustaining a **loss**.

3

University extension economists use the information to identify the strengths and weaknesses of agriculture in their States and to develop **educational programs** to meet operators' needs.

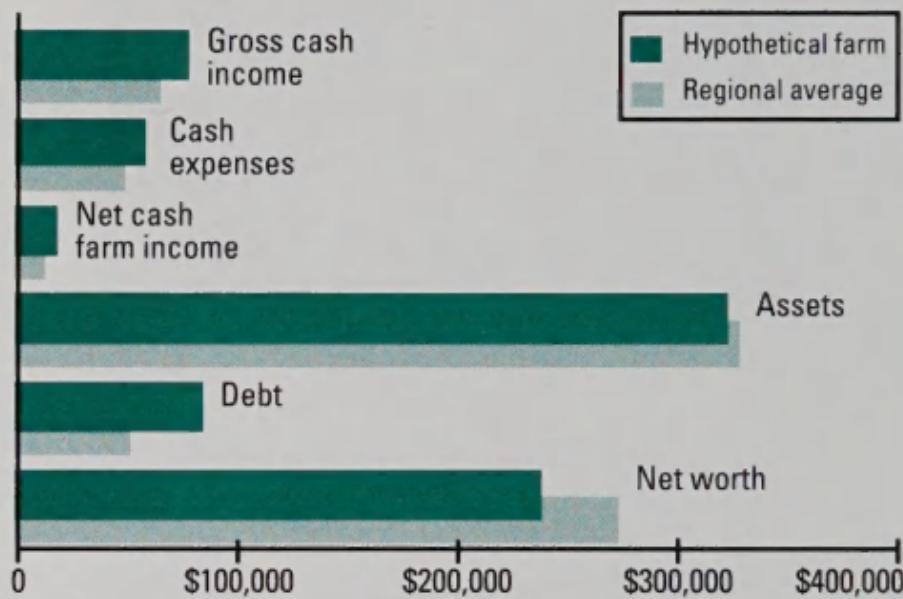


4

Farm and commodity groups use the survey information in their recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and communications with Congress, their members, and the general public.



Survey participants may receive a free **Individual Farm Financial Analysis**, which can help pinpoint an operation's **strengths and weaknesses** through a series of comparisons with regional averages.



We know that your time is very valuable, but this is **your chance** to help us develop a true picture of the **economic facts** of farm life. Having your **records** handy will help the interview go smoothly.

Participation is voluntary, but we would greatly appreciate your time and cooperation for this valuable survey.



Farm Costs and Returns Survey

an

Authority for collecting information for the **Farm Costs and Returns Survey** is provided by U.S. Code, title 7, section 2204. This authority carries the responsibility for safeguarding the privacy of farmers' responses. The confidentiality of the answers you provide is protected by U.S. Code, title 7, section 2276.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

January 1994



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